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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Proposes Closing of Low-Participation Meal Site

Waukesha, Wis. – The Waukesha County Department of Senior Services announced its proposal to close the Delafield Senior Dining Center at the Knoll Crest Apartment complex next year due to budget constraints.

The department, which plans and maintains sustainable programs that address the needs of county residents aged 60 and older, currently serves 65,457 congregate meals annually at 13 dining centers throughout the county. Twice a week the Delafield location serves an average of 10 people a day, which totals 1,199 meals a year or 1.8% of the total county congregate meals served. It has the lowest overall attendance of these centers, and closing the site will help the department meet its 2005 budget target.

“Unfortunately, we can no longer afford to keep the Delafield meal site open, however, we will gladly serve area seniors at the nearby Hartland meal site,” commented Cathy Bellovary, department director.

Delafield seniors that are interested in attending the county-run meal site in nearby Hartland and need transportation to the facility can receive it from the Lake Country Cares Cab shared-ride taxi program at a cost of \$1 each way.

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Senior dining is funded through the Older Americans Act, state and local government, private donations and monies received from meal recipients for the service. Funding is offset by volunteer support from over 800 caring people that have collectively spent 30,000 hours assisting county staff with packaging, distributing, serving and delivering meals. Adults 60 and above can receive meals for a suggested donation of \$2.75 each.

In addition to senior dining, the department offers supportive services and opportunities which include: adult day centers, advocacy for older adults and their caregivers, case management, chore services, community services, emergency intervention, health cost sharing, homemaker services, information and assistance, legal/benefit assistance, outreach, personal care, respite, specialized transportation and volunteer services.

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